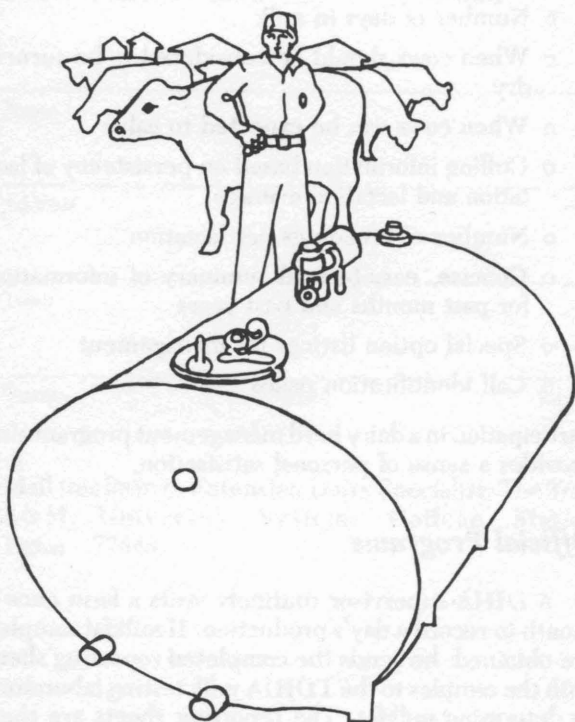


# DAIRY HERD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS



With today's high costs for fertilizer, concentrates, machinery and labor, some dairymen may question the added cost for a dairy herd management program. But a dairy herd management program is *not* an added cost because it will pay for itself by providing information needed for effective management.

Pipelines and in-place milking installations now require individual performance information, since "filling the pail days" are no longer prevalent on dairy farms. Various approved metering devices are available through local associations for easy, convenient and accurate weighing of milk from individual cows. Today's computer-calculated records not only include production information, but also include a host of additional management aids. A dairy herd management system includes such information as:

- Individual cow performance
- Number of days in milk
- When cows should be considered to be turned dry
- When cows can be expected to calve
- Culling information based on persistency of lactation and lactation average
- Number of breedings per lactation
- Concise, easy-to-read summary of information for past months and past years
- Special option listings for management
- Calf identification pages

Participation in a dairy herd management program also provides a sense of personal satisfaction.

## ***Official Programs***

A DHIA supervisor routinely visits a farm once a month to record a day's production. If milkfat samples are obtained, he sends the completed reporting sheet with the samples to the TDHIA milk testing laboratory to determine milkfat. The reporting sheets are then sent to the Southern Regional Dairy Records Processing Center at Raleigh, North Carolina for computations. The member receives monthly and yearly reports by mail from the central processing center. These dairy herd management records provide vital information for effective herd management.

*Dairy Herd Improvement.* This is a supervised official record obtained in accordance with uniform rules established by the coordinating group of the National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program. Both grade and registered animals are eligible for this program. Although the main use of these records is for dairy herd management, records are used also in the USDA sire and cow evaluation programs.

*Dairy Herd Improvement Registry.* This is a supervised official record obtained in accordance with both the national DHI and DHIR Purebred Dairy Cattle Associations' testing rules. Dairymen with registered cattle enroll in DHIR through their breed registry program. In addition to being used in sire evaluation and cow evaluation programs, lactation records are sent to the breed association. Additional fees are charged for this service because additional publicity and recognition are given for the breeder of registered cattle.

### *Private Records*

A DHI supervisor leaves meters and sample cups at the farm one day each month. The dairyman weighs the a.m. and p.m. milk production of his herd and obtains a milkfat sample if he desires. The supervisor collects the sample and information, including breeding, feeding and other information, to make the report complete. The information is sent to the central laboratory for milkfat analysis and then to the regional processing center; or, if appropriate, it is sent directly to the processing center. The reports are not used for USDA sire and cow evaluation programs or accepted by breed associations. However, these records are just as useful as official records for herd management decisions. Testing costs are lower in the private programs because the supervisor is not collecting the monthly milk weights or milkfat samples.

*Owner Sampler.* This program is available to dairymen who do not want to follow the established rules for an official program. The dairyman obtains both milk and milkfat records and gives them to the association supervisor to submit to the laboratory along with the other management information.

*Private Milk Only.* This provides the same information as the Owner Sampler except that no milkfat samples are obtained.

## ***Basic***

This program is intended for dairymen who want minimum production information at a nominal cost. Essential information is provided to obtain meaningful results.

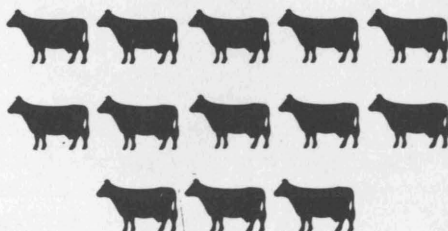
*Basic Herd Management.* This is an unsupervised program conducted exclusively by the dairyman. The dairyman provides all the information and it is forwarded to the central processing center.

A program is available for every dairyman's needs, and there is a records system to fit every type of herd in Texas. Every dairyman needs some kind of dairy herd management record system in order to improve and progress.

This many Texas DHM cows produced as much milk on the average



as this many average Texas dairy cows.



***DHM RECORDS PAY!***

YES — I am interested in more information concerning Dairy Herd Management Programs.

YES — I would like to enroll in a DHMP

I have a total of \_\_\_\_\_cows.

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Name

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Address

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Town

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County

State

Zip

Mail this form to Extension Dairy Specialist, The Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas 77843.

*Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic levels, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.*

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